

145-100 COFC  
#15  
FEB

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on Dec. 17, 1997

By

Karl J. Berg

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 16238-000700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPROVED  
AS INDICATED

In re Patent of:

PHILIP E. EGGERS et al.

Patent No.: 5,697,882

Issue Date: December 16, 1997

For: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR  
ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING AND  
ABLATION

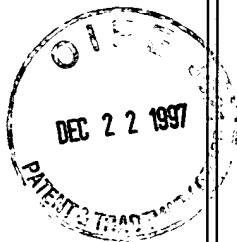
REQUEST FOR  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.323

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant under 37 CFR §1.323, Applicant submits a Certificate of Correction amending claim 23. These amendments to claim 23 have been made to correct typographical errors that were made in Applicant's Amendment filed on March 25, 1997. During that amendment, Applicant amended all of the claims to replace the term "liquid" with "fluid". In addition, Applicant amended all of the claims to replace the term "active electrode" with "electrode terminal".

In claim 23, however, Applicant mistakenly forgot to replace the term "active electrode" with "electrode terminal" on line 5. This term on line 5 derives antecedent basis from "an electrode terminal" on line 3 (also note the reference to electrode terminal on lines 7 and 9 of claim 23). Accordingly, in order to correct this error in antecedent basis, Applicant wishes to change "active electrode" on line 5 to "electrode terminal".



01/14/1998 GPOINDEX 00000000 5697882  
01 FC:145

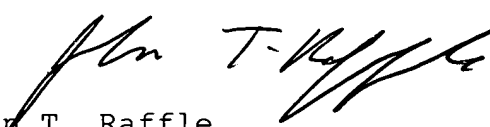
Similarly, on line 6 of claim 23, Applicant replaced "liquid" with "terminal" instead of replacing it with "fluid" as in the rest of claim 23, and the rest of the claims. In particular, note line 8 of claim 23 which refers to the fluid, clearly deriving antecedent basis from an earlier recitation of "fluid" in the claim. This antecedent basis must come from line 6. In addition, note dependent claims 46 and 47, which also refer to the electrically conductive fluid. These claims depend from claim 23. Finally, Applicant points out that the rest of the independent claims in this application (claims 48, 52 and 54) were amended to recite the step of "positioning the electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [liquid] fluid".

Accordingly, it should clearly be seen that the above changes merely correct typographical errors made by the Applicant during prosecution of this case.

The desired corrections are set forth on form PTO 1050, enclosed herewith.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.20(a).

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Raffle  
Reg. No. 38,585

ArthroCare Corporation  
595 N. Pastoria Avenue  
Sunnyvale, California 94086  
(408) 736-0224

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 5,697,882  
DATED : December 16, 1997  
INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers, et. al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

23. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:  
providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;  
positioning the [active] electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [terminal] fluid; and  
applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.



Signed and Sealed this  
Seventh Day of April, 1998

*Bruce Lehman*

Attest:

*Mary H. Jones*  
Attesting Officer

BRUCE LEHMAN

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 5,697,882  
DATED : December 16, 1997  
INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:  
providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;  
positioning the [active] electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [terminal] fluid; and  
applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.

Mailing address of sender:

**John T. Raffle  
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION  
595 N. Pastoria Avenue  
Sunnyvale, California 94086**

Patent No. 5,697,882

No. of add'l. copies  
@ 50¢ per page

→ 0